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# Optimal Allocation of Smart Substations in a Distribution System Considering Interruption Costs of Customers

Lei Sun, Shi You, *Member, IEEE*, Junjie Hu, *Member, IEEE*, Fushuan Wen

**Abstract**— One of the major functions of a smart substation (SS) is to restore power supply to interrupted customers as quickly as possible after an outage. The high cost of a smart substation limits its widespread utilization. In this paper, a smart substation allocation model (SSAM) to determine the optimal number and allocation of smart substations in a given distribution system is presented, with the upgrade costs of substations and the interruption costs of customers taken into account. Besides, the reliability criterion is also properly considered in the model. By linearization strategies, the SSAM is simplified into a mixed integer linear programming problem which could be solved efficiently with commercial solvers. Finally, the performance of the proposed methodology is demonstrated by the standard RBTS-BUS 4 test system and a medium voltage power distribution system in Denmark.

**Index Terms** — distribution system, smart substation allocation, upgrade cost, interruption cost, reliability cost, service restoration, outage management.

## NOMENCLATURES

### A. Indices and Sets:

$f, S_f$	Index and set of feeders.
$l, S_l$	Index and set of line segments.
$s, S_s$	Index and set of 10/0.4 kV substations.
$k, S_k$	Index and set of types of customers.
$w, S^{TS}$	Index and set of tie switches.
$z, S_z$	Index and set of sections.
$S_w^{STS}$	Set of substations which are located on all sides of a tie switch $w$ .
$S_w^{TFS}$	Set of substations which are located between substation $s$ ( $s \in S_w^{STS}$ ) and the feeder supplying power to substation $s$ .

$\Omega_f$	Set of line segments and substations supplied by feeder $f$ .
$\Omega_{f,z}$	Set of line segments and substations within section $z$ supplied by feeder $f$ .
$\Omega_{f,z}^{up}$	Set of substations in the upstream of section $z$ supplied by feeder $f$ .
$\Omega_{f,z}^{down}$	Set of substations in the downstream of section $z$ supplied by feeder $f$ .
$\Omega_{f,l,s}^{SS}$	Set of substations between line $l$ and substation $s$ supplied by feeder $f$ .

### B. Parameters

$S_{AIDI}^{lim}$	Threshold of the allowed SAIDI value.
$\lambda_{f,l}$	Probability of a fault occurred on line segment $l$ at feeder $f$ .
$p_{f,s,k}$	Power consumption of type $k$ at substation $s$ supplied by feeder $f$ .
$C_{f,s}^{CIC}$	Capital investment cost of upgrading substation $s$ supplied by feeder $f$ .
$C_{f,s}^{IC}$	Installment cost of upgrading substation $s$ at feeder $f$ .
$C_{f,s}^{MC}$	Maintenance and operation cost of upgrading substation $s$ at feeder $f$ .
$N_{f,s}$	Number of customers supplied by substation $s$ at feeder $f$ .
$t_{s,f,l}^{cur}$	Failure duration of substation $s$ when a fault occurs on line $l$ of feeder $f$ in the current distribution system.
$t_{s,f,l}^{smart}$	Failure duration of substation $s$ when a fault occurs on line $l$ of feeder $f$ if the fault can be isolated by a smart substation between substation $s$ and line $l$ .
$t_z^{uss}$	Time spent on opening the closest upstream switch in section $z$ manually.
$t_z^{dts}$	Time spent on opening the closest downstream switch in section $z$ and closing a tie switch manually.
$t_z^{uss\_a}$	Time spent on opening an upstream switch in section $z$ automatically.

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$t_z^{\text{dts,a}}$	Time spent on opening the closest downstream switch in section $z$ and closing a tie switch automatically.
$N_g$	Number of separating points in the outage cost function curve of customers.
$t_g, t_{g+1}$	Time points of separating segment $g$ in the interruption cost curve of customers where $g=1, \dots, N_g-1$ .
$a_g, b_g$	Slope and constant term of each segment $g$ in the piecewise interruption cost function of customers where $g=1, 2, \dots, N_g-1$ .
$\Upsilon_z$	Vector of failure probabilities of lines in section $z$ .
$\bar{\Upsilon}_{z,l}$	Vector of failure location in line $l$ of section $z$ , in which only the element corresponding to line $l$ is 1 and any other element is 0.
$\mathbf{T}_z^{\text{dt}}$	Time vector spent on detecting the candidate faulty lines in section $z$ .
$\mathbf{T}_z^{\text{rt}}$	Time vector spent on repairing the candidate faulty lines in section $z$ .
$\mathbf{T}_z^{\text{at}}$	Time vector spent on restoring power supply to the faulty section $z$ after all faulty lines are repaired.
$p_z$	Power consumption in section $z$ .
$T_z$	Maximum number of time slots needed to restore the faulty section $z$ .
$\mathbf{G}_z$	Ancillary matrix with all upper triangular elements to be 1 and all lower triangular elements to be 0.
$t_{k,g}^{\text{add}}$	The $g^{\text{th}}$ separation point of the piecewise interruption cost function of customers with type $k$ .
$y_{k,g}$	Cost of customers of type $k$ with the outage duration $t_{k,g}^{\text{add}}$ .
$\rho$	A very small number.

### C. Functions

$S_{\text{AIDI}}(\mathbf{X})$	Value of the SAIDI index with the allocations of smart substations as inputs.
$E_z^{\text{ENS}}$	Expected Energy Not Supplied (EENS) for any section $z$ when a faulty line exists in section $z$ .
$f_k(t)$	Interruption cost of customers of type $k$ within interruption time $t$ .
$C^{\text{EIC}}$	Expected interruption cost.
$C^{\text{OU}}$	Cost of upgrading an existing substation to a smart substation.
$C^{\text{OM}}$	Maintenance and operation cost of smart substations.

### D. Variables

$t_{s,f,l}$	Interruption time of customers in substation $s$ due to a fault on line $l$ at feeder $f$ , where $f \in S_f, s \in \Omega_f, l \in \Omega_f$ .
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$X_{f,s}$	Binary variable: 1 if substation $s$ at feeder $f$ is upgraded to a smart substation; 0 if not.
$\mathbf{X}$	Variable matrix with element $X_{f,s}$ , where $f \in S_f, s \in \Omega_f$ .
$\mathbf{D}_z$	Matrix with variable entries used to determine the detecting sequence of candidate faulted lines in section $z$ . Its element $D_{z,l,t}$ is 1 if line $l$ is detected at time slot $t$ , otherwise $D_{z,l,t}$ is 0.
$\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g}$	Ancillary variable for identifying if the outage time $t_{s,f,l}$ for type $k$ customers falls within $[t_g, t_{g+1}]$ .
$z_{s,k,f,l,g}$	Binary indicative variable for identifying whether $\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g}$ is 0 or not.

## I. INTRODUCTION

**D**ISTRIBUTION system reliability relates to customer satisfaction, and may also lead to penalties to utilities who fail to meet the expected level of power supply reliability [1-3]. Currently, the widely adopted reliability indices, such as the system average interruption frequency index (SAIFI), system average interruption duration index (SAIDI), are primarily benchmarked based on long duration interruptions [4, 5]. Reducing the long duration interruptions is therefore a key objective in both distribution system planning and operation.

One of the most effective methods to reduce the outage time is known as smart substations [6, 7]. Although there is currently a lack of consensus on the definition of smart substations, it is commonly agreed that smart substations serve as the basis and backbone of the establishment of the smart grid. The automation level deployed at a substation therefore reflects its "smartness" [8], from strengthening the station's local functions (e.g. fault isolation) to improving the integrated performance with respect to the security, economics (including loss reduction), power supply reliability, power quality and power restoration. In contrast to automatic switch, smart substations often offer certain decision-support capabilities which can be integrated into various distribution control levels (HV, MV, LV) [9], therefore also enabling various smart grid applications such as online monitoring and state estimation [10, 11].

Conventionally, in a distribution system with relatively limited level of automation, the sectionalizing switches (normally closed) are used to limit the impacts of a faulty condition by isolating the upstream customers from the fault. If sectionalizing switches are combined with tie switches (normally opened), the outage duration can be reduced further by re-supplying power to some interrupted downstream customers from the neighboring feeders through either automatic or manual operation. Besides, the time spent on detecting the fault location and repairing the faulty equipment can be long due to the lack of communication and other supporting functions. On the contrary, for a distribution system equipped with smart substations, the outage time can be significantly reduced, however, the effectiveness are restricted by the location and the number of smart substations [8]. It should be pointed out that there are several significant differences between a smart substation and a sectionalizing

switch, including: a) a smart substation is regarded as an integrated solution with some smart switches, a communication infrastructure and a decision-making system, while a conventional switch is just an execution device; 2) a smart substation functions with a local area network-based system and advanced multifunctional protection and control IEDs [12], while a conventional switch is open/closed manually or remote-controlled by signals in a conventional centralized system based on RTUs and numerous protection and control devices; 3) a smart substation requires less network resources. Real-time data are collected and dealt with first in a smart substation, and then locally filtered information will be sent to a Distribution Management System (DMS) and neighboring substations. A conventional remote-controlled switch is activated by signals from DMS where all the data in the distribution system are processed in a centralized way which demands plenty of network resources.

The problem of optimally allocating smart substations is not systematically addressed in existing publications. Some papers focus on the optimal placement of remote-controlled switches so as to implement some functionalities of a smart substation. In [13], the optimal placement problem of remote-controlled switches is formulated as a weighed set-cover problem and with the objective of minimizing the total number of switches in selected basic switch groups and extended switch groups. In [14], the minimum cost of energy not supplied is achieved under reliability and flow capacity constraints, and the optimal allocation of switches is solved by the memetic algorithm. The optimal number and location of remote-controlled sectionalizing switches are optimized simultaneously in [15, 16], however the reliability index is not considered. The optimal placement of switching devices is derived to minimize the total cost of customer service outage and investment cost of line switches by employing immune algorithm (IA) in [17].

Due to the need to upgrade conventional substations to smart substations in a modern distribution system, a smart substation allocation model is developed in this study which extends the state-of-the-art research on remote-controlled switch problem. This paper mainly focuses on the application of smart substations to enhance restoration capability and reduce the outage time of customers. A smart substation has some advanced functionalities, including the automatic operation control of substations, condition based maintenance (CBM) of the devices, self-adaption of variable operation states, distributed coordinated control, smart analysis and decision-making [18]. These functionalities are implemented in a smart substation, based on the IEC61850 communication protocol. With the high-speed Ethernet, the IEC 61850-based communication system can manage all the data available at the process level as well as at the station level [19]. By using the term “smart substation”, we would like to emphasize the possibility that a conventional substation can be upgraded to a substation with a specific level of “smartness” in different ways, which has to be understood from an integrated perspective, i.e. “communication + control + decision-making + operation”. We regard a “smart substation” as an integrated solution driving incremental benefits in capital outlay,

operation and maintenance expenses, and the benefits of customers [20]. This understanding is somewhat not highlighted enough in existing publications that focus on “optimal placement of switching devices”.

A smart switching device (SSD) [21] is one of the key components in a smart substation. Different from a conventional switching device, a SSD adopts a standard communication protocol (IEC61850), and integrates condition monitoring, measurement and control, protection and communication, satisfying the demand for isolating the faulty area and restoring power supply to customers in the healthy area quickly following a fault [22]. When the optimal allocation of smart substations is carried out, the allocation of smart switches is implemented as well. The proposed method has the following features.

- 1) Both the number and the allocations of smart substations are optimized simultaneously. The proposed model is formulated as a mixed integer linear programming (MILP) problem which can be effectively solved by commercial solvers.

- 2) The System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) constraint is considered in the established model, and the recommended SAIDI value is given but can be easily adjusted according to the planned target of a utility.

- 3) A detailed fault clearing model is developed to minimize the EENS for the section where the faulty line exists, thus, the optimal sequence for detecting candidate faulty lines is obtained. In this work, a line failure refers to a failure associated with a conductor, with the protection and control devices attached to the conductor such as a capacitor and a fuse cutout.

- 4) The piecewise linear outage cost function of customers is linearized by introducing ancillary variables, and in this way the planning problem of actual large-scale distribution systems can be addressed.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the formulation of the smart substation allocation model and the linearization strategies. Section III presents numerical simulation results for two test systems. The concluding remarks are given in Section IV.

## II. MATHEMATICAL MODEL

In this section, a Smart Substation Allocation Model (SSAM) is first presented to minimize the cost of upgrading substations. Then, a fault clearing model is developed and the failure time estimated. Two linearization strategies applied for the failure time and interruption cost function are introduced to ensure SSAM be a mixed integer linear programming model, and could be solved effectively by commercial solvers. Finally the linearized SSAM is presented. The relationship among subsections in Section II is illustrated in Fig. 1.

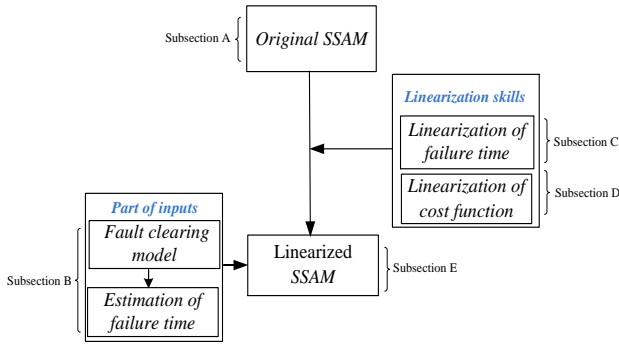


Fig. 1 The relationship among subsections in Section II

A smart substation allocation model (SSAM) is presented in subsection A. By employing the linearization skills presented in subsections C and D, the SSAM can be transformed into a mixed integer linear programming problem as detailed in subsection E. A fault clearing model is developed in subsection B so as to estimate the failure time in two cases, which serves as a part of the input of the linearized SSAM.

#### A. Original SSAM

Upgrading a traditional substation to a smart substation can be expensive because of the advanced devices, complex maintenance operation and some necessary communication infrastructures. It is necessary to investigate the tradeoff between the upgrade cost of substations and the customer interruption cost.

The objective of the optimal smart substation allocations is to minimize the upgrading cost of substations and the expected interruption cost of customers while keeping the index of SAIDI less than a desired threshold. The upgrading cost of substations consists of the investment cost  $C^{OU}$ , as well as the maintenance and operation cost  $C^{OM}$ . This problem can be formulated as,

$$\text{Min } C^{EIC} + C^{OU} + C^{OM} \quad (1)$$

$$C^{EIC} = \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{l \in \Omega_f} \sum_{s \in \Omega_f} \lambda_{f,l} \left( \sum_{k \in S_k} p_{f,s,k} f_k(t_{f,l}) \right) \quad (2)$$

$$C^{OU} = \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in \Omega_f} X_{f,s} (C_{f,s}^{CIC} + C_{f,s}^{IC}) \quad (3)$$

$$C^{OM} = \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in \Omega_f} X_{f,s} C_{f,s}^{MC} \quad (4)$$

Subject to

$$S_{AIDI}(\mathbf{X}) \leq S_{AIDI}^{lim} \quad (5)$$

$$S_{AIDI}(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{\sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_s} \sum_{l \in S_l} N_{f,s} \lambda_{f,l} t_{f,l}}{\sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_s} N_{f,s}} \quad (6)$$

$$X_{f,s} \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall f \in S_f, \forall s \in S_s \quad (7)$$

Eqn (2) presents the expected interruption cost of customers. The method employed in this paper for calculating the expected interruption cost of customers is based on the method presented in [5]. Eqn (3) presents the total investment cost of smart substations for a smart substation allocation scheme which consists of investment cost and installment cost. The total

investment cost is the investment cost of upgrading a conventional substation multiplied by the number of substations to be upgraded. Eqn (4) presents the total maintenance and operation cost of smart substations for a smart substation allocation scheme, including the maintenance and operation cost of upgrading a conventional substation multiplied by the number of substations to be upgraded. Eqns (2)-(4) are employed to calculate the expected interruption cost of customers, investment cost, as well as the maintenance and operation cost. Eqn (5) ensures that the SAIDI index of a distribution network be limited by the threshold. The  $S_{AIDI}^{lim}$  can be determined by the DSO, meanwhile the value should be in the range between the minimum and the maximum of SAIDI so that the problem is feasible. The range can be calculated by the method proposed in [14].

$C^{EIC}$  and  $S_{AIDI}(\mathbf{X})$  are related to the outage duration which is highly dependent on the locations of smart substations that can perform automatic fault isolation and power restoration through a neighboring feeder. The optimization model described by (1)-(7) is nonlinear. To solve this model effectively, some linearization operations are implemented in subsection C.

#### B. Fault Clearing Model

When a fault occurs in the distribution system, the sectionalizers will be operated to isolate the fault. The out-of-service area without fault can be reserved in a certain time depending on operation time of switches, while the out-of-service area with fault can obtain power only when the fault is cleared. The outage time of the faulty area is related to how the maintenance process works.

In the actual maintenance process, the first thing to do for the DSO operators is to identify the location of fault, which is not easy without the communication between the distribution system center and the substations in a faulty area. In this case, the staff members will check the suspected lines until the line with fault is located. The operation of detecting usually begins from the upstream of the fault area to the downstream in sequence, which can be time-consuming. The out-of-service time of the fault area is therefore the sum of the time spent on detecting the candidate lines and repairing the faulty line and resupplying power to the outage areas. The proper sequence of detecting candidate lines can effectively locate the faulty lines, thus it can be beneficial to reducing the out-of-serve time.

The section concept is introduced in [14], and the candidate faulty lines are confined in a certain section. Thus, in this part, an optimal fault clearing model is developed to minimize the EENS for any section  $z$ , and described as,

$$\text{Min } E_z^{ENS} = \mathbf{Y}'_z ((\mathbf{D}_z \cdot \mathbf{G}_z \cdot \mathbf{D}_z)' \mathbf{T}_z^{dt} + \mathbf{T}_z^{rt} + \mathbf{T}_z^{at}) \cdot p_z \quad (8)$$

where  $(\mathbf{D}_z \cdot \mathbf{G}_z \cdot \mathbf{D}_z)' \mathbf{T}_z^{dt}$  is a time vector of finding the faulty line in section  $z$  according to the detect sequence matrix  $\mathbf{D}_z$ . The introduction of  $\mathbf{G}_z$  is to obtain a new matrix  $\mathbf{D}_z \cdot \mathbf{G}_z \cdot \mathbf{D}_z'$  which acts as an indicator of whether a candidate line is detected before the faulty line is located in section  $z$ .

In this formulation, some assumptions have been made as:

1) Any line can only be detected once, so constraint (9) must be respected.

$$\sum_t D_{z,l,t} = 1, \quad l \in \Omega_{f,z} \quad (9)$$

2) Only one line can be detected at each time interval, so constraint (10) must be respected.

$$\sum_{l=1}^{n_z} D_{z,l,t} = 1, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T_z \quad (10)$$

By solving (8)-(10), the optimal detecting sequence of candidate lines can be obtained and the corresponding minimum EENS attained. Thus, the expected failure durations of customers in section  $z$  can be estimated.

To sum up, the failure duration can be described as

$$t_{s,f,l}^{\text{cur}} = \begin{cases} 0, & \forall s \notin \Omega_f \\ t_z^{\text{uss}}, & \forall l \in \Omega_{f,z}, \forall s \in \Omega_{f,z}^{\text{up}} \\ t_z^{\text{uss}} + t_z^{\text{dts}}, & \forall l \in \Omega_{f,z}, \forall s \in \Omega_{f,z}^{\text{down}} \\ t_z^{\text{uss}} + t_z^{\text{dts}} + \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{z,l}'((\mathbf{D}_z \cdot \mathbf{G}_z \cdot \mathbf{D}_z)' \mathbf{T}_z^{\text{dt}} + \mathbf{T}_z^{\text{rt}} + \mathbf{T}_z^{\text{at}}), & \forall s, l \in \Omega_{f,z} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

If substation  $s$  is not supplied by feeder  $f$ , the failure on line  $l$  in feeder  $f$  will have no impacts on the power supply of substation  $s$ .

If substation  $s$  is supplied by feeder  $f$  and located in the upstream of section  $z$  supplied by feeder  $f$  where the faulty line  $l$  lies in, the outage time is  $t_z^{\text{uss}}$ .

If substation  $s$  is supplied by feeder  $f$  and located in the downstream of section  $z$  supplied by feeder  $f$  where the faulty line  $l$  lies in, the outage time is  $t_z^{\text{uss}} + t_z^{\text{dts}}$ .

If substation  $s$  is supplied by feeder  $f$  and located within the same section  $z$  with the faulty line  $l$ , then the outage time of the customers is  $t_z^{\text{uss}} + t_z^{\text{dts}} + \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{z,l}'((\mathbf{D}_z \cdot \mathbf{G}_z \cdot \mathbf{D}_z)' \mathbf{T}_z^{\text{dt}} + \mathbf{T}_z^{\text{rt}} + \mathbf{T}_z^{\text{at}})$ .

In another case, if the substations in the distribution system are smart ones, each line and substation will be an independent section, thus the outage duration can be attained by

$$t_{s,f,l}^{\text{smart}} = \begin{cases} 0, & \forall s \notin \Omega_f \\ t_z^{\text{uss-a}}, & \forall l \in \Omega_{f,z}, \forall s \in \Omega_{f,z}^{\text{up}} \\ t_z^{\text{uss-a}} + t_z^{\text{dts-a}}, & \forall l \in \Omega_{f,z}, \forall s \in \Omega_{f,z}^{\text{down}} \\ t_z^{\text{uss-a}} + t_z^{\text{dts-a}} + (t_{z,l}^{\text{dt}} + t_{z,l}^{\text{rt}} + t_{z,l}^{\text{at}}), & \forall s, l \in \Omega_{f,z} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

When a fault occurs, a smart substation can locate the fault by analyzing the electrical information collected by the monitoring devices. Control signals will be sent to the smart switches, so that the faulty area can be identified and isolated by opening the normally closed smart switches. With the help of smart substations, the faulty area can be located accurately and quickly. It takes less time for a maintenance team to repair all the defective network components. Eqns (11) and (12) embody this process and are employed to estimate the failure duration in a distribution system with conventional substations and smart substations, respectively.

### C. Linearization of Failure Time

The failure duration is effected by the location of the smart substations. The relation between failure duration and location

and types of substations is introduced in the above content as in subsection B. By introducing the following two constraints, these relations can be modeled in a linear form [15] and added into the SSAM.

$$t_{s,f,l} \geq t_{s,f,l}^{\text{smart}} \quad (13)$$

$$t_{s,f,l} \geq t_{s,f,l}^{\text{cur}} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i \in \Omega_{f,l}^{\text{SS}}} X_{f,i} \right] \quad (14)$$

A part of the objective of the SSAM is to minimize the expected interruption cost of customers which is a piecewise-linear function of the interruption time. The interruption time is equal to the minimum of  $t_{s,f,l}^{\text{smart}}$  and

$t_{s,f,l}^{\text{cur}} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i \in \Omega_{f,l}^{\text{SS}}} X_{f,i} \right]$  as in (13) and (14). If there is at least one

smart substation between the faulty line  $l$  and the customers in substation  $s$ , the interruption time is equal to  $t_{s,f,l}^{\text{smart}}$ , otherwise the interruption time is equal to  $t_{s,f,l}^{\text{cur}}$ .

As has been pointed out previously, the out-of-service area without fault in the downstream can be isolated from the fault by opening the sectionalizing switch and resupplied by closing the combined tie switch. Therefore, if there exists more than one smart substation located between substations on each side of a tie switch and its feeders which supply power to these substations, at least one of the substations that lie on each side of the tie switch is smart. If none of the substations between substations on each side of a tie switch and its feeders that supply power to these substations is smart, substations that lie on each side of the tie switch are not smart ones. These relations can be described as follows.

$$\rho(\sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_w^{\text{TF}}} X_{f,s}) \leq \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_w^{\text{TF}}} X_{f,s} \leq \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_w^{\text{TF}}} X_{f,s}, \quad \forall w \in S^{\text{TS}} \quad (15)$$

### D. Linearization of Interruption Cost Function

The cost function of outage is represented as a piecewise function. In [17], the service interruption cost and key customers are introduced. The interruption cost function of customers with outage duration  $t_{s,f,l}$  ( $\forall f \in S_f, \forall s, l \in \Omega_f$ ) can generally be described as

$$f(t_{s,f,l}) = a_g t_{s,f,l} + b_g, \quad t_g \leq t_{s,f,l} < t_{g+1}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_g - 1\} \quad (16)$$

The main work in this part is on transforming the piecewise function into continual, differential function by introducing mixed integer ancillary variables.

The interruption cost function of customers with type  $k$  and interruption time  $t_{s,f,l}$  is depicted in Fig. 2 and described as

$$f_k(t_{s,f,l}) = \sum_{g=1}^{N_g} \gamma_{s,k,f,l,g} y_{k,g} \quad (17)$$

$$t_{s,f,l} = \sum_{g=1}^{N_g} \gamma_{s,k,f,l,g} t_{k,g}^{\text{add}} \quad (18)$$

$$\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g} \leq z_{s,k,f,l,g}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_g\} \quad (19)$$

$$\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g} \geq 0, \quad \forall g \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_g\} \quad (20)$$

$$z_{s,k,f,l,g} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_g\} \quad (21)$$

$$\sum_{g=1}^{N_g} z_{s,k,f,l,g} \leq 2 \quad (22)$$

$$z_{s,k,f,l,g_1} + z_{s,k,f,l,g_2} \leq 1, \quad 1 \leq \forall g_1 < N_G - 1, g_1 + 1 < \forall g_2 \leq N_G \quad (23)$$

It is shown in Fig. 2 that if the interruption time  $t_{s,f,l}$  of customers with type  $k$  is in  $[t_{k,g}^{add}, t_{k,g+1}^{add}]$ , both of the indicative variables  $z_{s,k,f,l,g}$  and  $z_{s,k,f,l,g+1}$  are 1. The interruption time  $t_{s,f,l}$  can be rewritten in a linear formulation of  $t_{k,g}^{add}$  and  $t_{k,g+1}^{add}$  with coefficients  $\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g}$  and  $\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g+1}$ . Besides, the interruption cost  $f_k(t_{s,f,l})$  can also be written in a linear formulation of  $y_{k,g}$  and  $y_{k,g+1}$  with coefficients  $\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g}$  and  $\gamma_{s,k,f,l,g+1}$ .

By substituting (17) into (2), the interruption cost of customers can be described as

$$C^{EIC} = \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{l \in \Omega_f} \sum_{s \in \Omega_f} \left[ \lambda_{f,l} \sum_{k \in S_k} p_{f,s,k} \left( \sum_{g=1}^{N_g} \gamma_{s,k,f,l,g} y_{k,g} \right) \right] \quad (24)$$

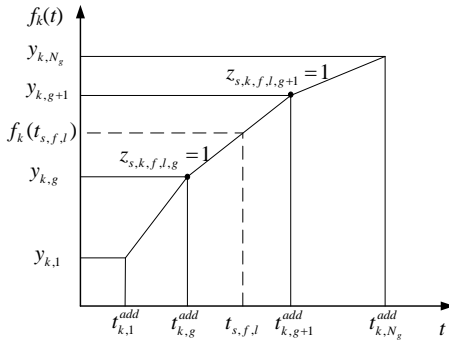


Fig. 2 Piecewise linear function of the interruption cost for customers with type  $k$

### E. Linearized SSAM

To sum up, the SSAM can be described as a mixed integer linear programming problem and presented as follows.

Objective function (1)

Subject to (5)-(7), (13)-(15), (18)-(23)

The terms in (1) can be attained by (3), (4), and (22).

The proposed linearized SSAM in this paper is applicable for balanced distribution systems, and can be expanded for distribution systems with unbalanced feeders. In the model for three-phase unbalanced distribution systems, some parameters and variables are attached with phase sequence indices, while in the one for balanced distribution systems there are not phase sequence indices associated. A modified smart substation allocation model is added for three-phase unbalanced distribution systems, as detailed below:

Objective function (1)

Subject to (5), (7), (15)

$$S_{AIDI}(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{\sum_{\varphi \in S_\varphi} \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_s} \sum_{l \in S_l} N_{f,s,\varphi} \lambda_{f,l,\varphi} t_{s,f,l,\varphi}}{\sum_{\varphi \in S_\varphi} \sum_{f \in S_f} \sum_{s \in S_s} N_{f,s,\varphi}} \quad (24)$$

$$t_{s,f,l,\varphi} \geq t_{s,f,l,\varphi}^{\text{smart}} \quad (25)$$

$$t_{s,f,l,\varphi} \geq t_{s,f,l,\varphi}^{\text{cur}} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i \in \Omega_{f,l,s}^{\text{SS}}} X_{f,i} \right] \quad (26)$$

$$t_{s,f,l,\varphi} = \sum_{g=1}^{N_g} \gamma_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g} t_{k,g}^{\text{add}} \quad (27)$$

$$\gamma_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g} \leq z_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_G\} \quad (28)$$

$$\gamma_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g} \geq 0, \quad \forall g \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_G\} \quad (29)$$

$$z_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_G\} \quad (30)$$

$$\sum_{g=1}^{N_g} z_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g} \leq 2 \quad (31)$$

$$z_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g_1} + z_{s,k,f,l,\varphi,g_2} \leq 1, \quad 1 \leq \forall g_1 < N_G - 1, g_1 + 1 < \forall g_2 \leq N_G \quad (32)$$

where  $\varphi$  and  $S_\varphi$  are respectively the index and set of phases. All symbols in Eqns (24)-(32) with index  $\varphi$  have the same meanings as their corresponding symbols without index  $\varphi$  introduced in the nomenclature section.

In this paper, the commercial solver CPLEX [23] is employed to obtain the global solution because the allocation problem of smart substations is formulated as a MILP model.

## III. CASE STUDY

In this section, the proposed method is applied to two power systems including the IEEE RBTS-Bus 4 testing network [4] and a practical 10kV medium voltage network of Denmark.

The investment cost of upgrading an existing substation to a smart one is approximately \$ 22677 with a life cycle of 15 years. Suppose the annual maintenance and operation cost is 2% of the annualized investment cost [16], the total annual cost for upgrading one substation is \$1542.04.

In this work, a line failure refers to a failure associated with a conductor, as well as with protection and control devices attached to the conductor such as a capacitor and a fuse cutout. In each fault scenario, one line failure is considered with the failure rate set as the sum of the failure rate of a conductor and that of the protection and control devices attached to the conductor, which are respectively specified as 0.01 failures/year.km and 0.025 failures/year. The service interruption cost of customers with different types is obtained from [4, 17].  $\rho$  is set as 0.00001. The load demand employed in the study cases is the average value in each of the 15 years with an annual load growth rate 5% [24].

The time related to the repair model is shown in Table I.

TABLE I  
TIME PARAMETERS RELATED TO FAULT CLEARING MODEL

Parameters	Value	Unit
Detect time of each line	1	Hour
Repair time of each line	3	Hours
Restoration time of a faulty section after the faulty line is repaired	0.5	Hour
Upstream switch time (manual)	0.9	Hour

Downstream switch time (manual)	0.45	Hour
Upstream switch time (automatic)	0.2	Hour
Downstream switch time (automatic)	0.2	Hour

Simulation tests are implemented in an Intel i5 3.4-GHz personal computer with 8 GB RAM and Windows 7 Enterprise as the operating system. The algorithms are implemented in AMPL, which is an algebraic modeling language to describe mathematical problems [23]. AMPL/CPLEX, a highly efficient commercial solver, is employed to solve the developed model [25].

#### A. RBTS-Bus 4

RBTS-BUS 4 is a standard test system and is employed to demonstrate the proposed method in this paper. The average load, number and type of customers on each feeder, length of each line and topology network are given in [4]. The threshold of SAIDI is set as 20 (min/year).

The running time of the proposed solution strategy is 0.13 second. The optimal number of smart substations to be upgraded is 8 which are labeled by red numbers shown in Fig. 3. Each dashed line in Fig. 3 represents a tie switch. Substations with three kinds of colors, i.e. blue, yellow, green, supply three types of customers, i.e. residential, small and commercial customers, respectively. In addition, a detailed dependency analysis between the number of smart substations and the resulted performance is shown in Fig. 4. It can be easily observed both outage cost and SAIDI decreases as the number of smart substation increases. However, when the investment is either oversized or undersized, the economic viability will be easily lost. As an example, for a scenario with 100% smart substations (i.e. 38 smart substations), the total cost is \$ 65308.05, which is 1.95 times of the total cost for the optimal solution (\$ 33477.2), although it can reduce the SAIDI from 12.15 to 2.39. Comparing to the scenario with no smart substation at all, the optimal solution can achieve a saving by 14.2% and reduce the SAIDI from 15.76 to 12.15.

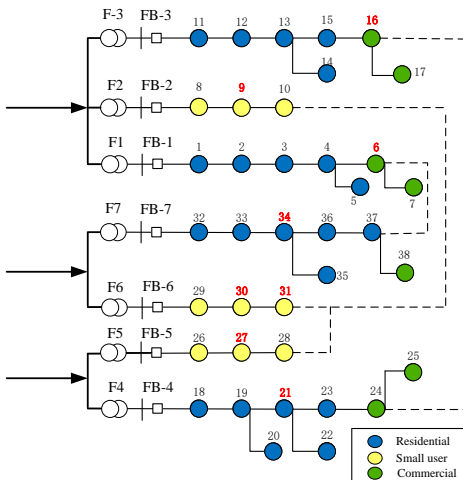


Fig. 3 Optimal number and allocations of smart substations for RBTS-BUS 4

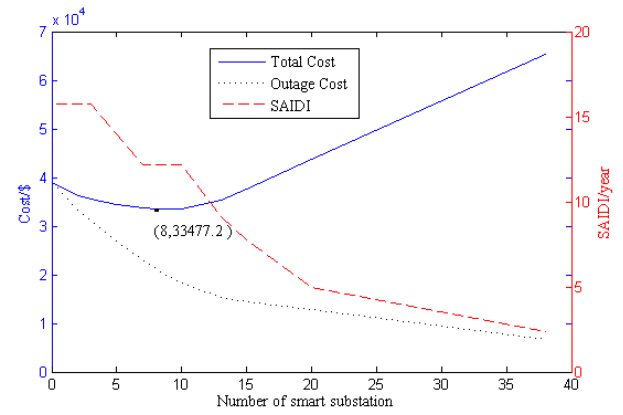


Fig. 4 The total cost, outage cost and SAIDI with different number of smart substations in the RBTS-Bus 4 distribution system

#### B. Medium Voltage Distribution Network in Denmark

To demonstrate the applicability of the proposed approach for actual power systems, a medium voltage distribution network in the east of Denmark is served for demonstration, as depicted in Fig. 5. There are 5 primary substations and 98 10/0.4kV secondary substations. The power grid serves approximately 5000 customers. There are 26 categories of customer types in the Danish distribution grid, which in this paper are regrouped into 3 types: Residential, Commercial Industrial. The threshold of SAIDI is set as 50 (min/year). The optimal allocations of smart substations with its numbers marked red are shown in Fig. 5.

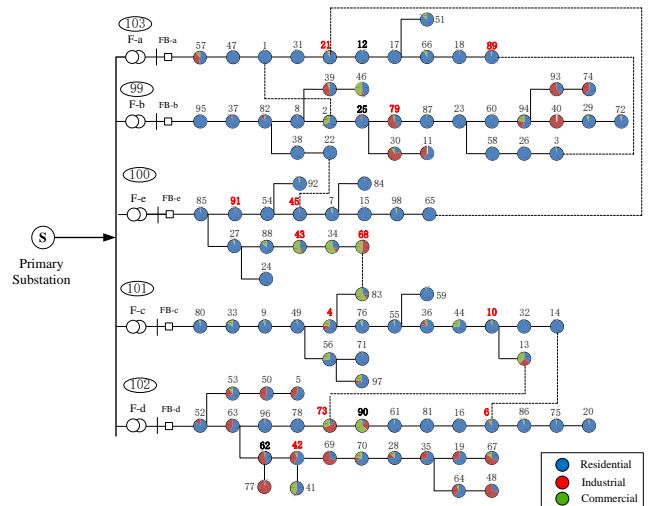


Fig. 5 Optimal number and allocations of smart substations in an actual medium voltage distribution network in Denmark

The running time of the proposed solution strategy is 3.21 second. The minimum total cost is \$ 49749.23 and the optimal number of smart substations is 12 which is shown in Fig. 5. Similar to results achieved in case A, it is observed that the upgrading of substations can effectively decrease the outage cost. If the number of smart substations is not more than 12, the total cost decreases as the number of smart substations increases.



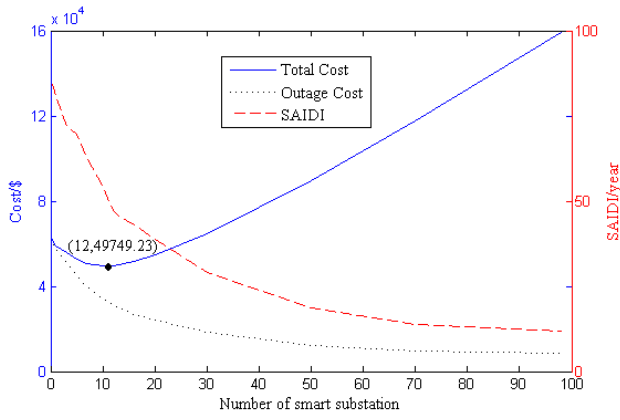


Fig. 6 Total cost, outage cost and SAIDI with different number of smart substations in an actual medium voltage distribution network in Denmark

### C. Sensitivity analysis

The change of line failure rates, investment cost of upgrading the substation, threshold value of SAIDI and the method of estimating the interruption cost of customers have great impacts on the optimal solution achieved by SSAM. A sensitivity analysis on some selected parameters is investigated for Case B grid in this section. Due to space limitation of the paper, the attention is focused on the impacts of the failure rates and cost of upgrading a substation to a smart substation in the proposed model.

Since all the distribution lines are cables in the network, they have lower failure rates than overhead lines [4]. Table II gives results associated with some cases with different changes in failure rates. From the results, it can be seen that number of substation to be upgraded increases as the failure rates increase. For example, Number of substations to be upgraded is almost doubled when failure rates increase by 50%.

TABLE II  
IMPACTS OF FAILURE RATES ON SOLUTIONS OF THE SSAM

Failure rates changes	Number of SS	Outage cost (\$)	Total cost (\$)	SAIDI
-50%	3	25602.5	30228.64	35.96
-25%	8	28225.6	40561.90	43.57
---	12	31244.8	49749.23	47.25
+25%	17	32895	59109.72	50
+50%	23	33789.7	69256.65	49.81

The investment cost of upgrading a conventional substation to a smart substation also has impacts on the optimal solution of SSAM. It is always decreasing because of the advances in knowledge, technology and mass production of concerned devices. Different upgrading costs are applied to the developed model and the results are shown in Table III. As can be seen, more substations can be upgraded with less outage cost and lower SAIDI as the upgrading cost decreases.

TABLE III  
IMPACTS OF SS COSTS ON SOLUTIONS OF THE SSAM

SS cost changes	Number of SS	Outage cost	Total cost	SAIDI
-50%	17	26086.7	39194.04	41.62
-25%	13	29922.4	44957.30	45.54

---	12	31244.8	49749.23	47.25
+25%	11	32782	53985.07	49.93
+50%	11	32782	58225.68	49.93

### D. Comparison of two strategies

Two different strategies, i.e. the optimal allocations of smart substations (SS) and remote-controlled switches (RCS), are compared. The cost setting of a remote-controlled switch is \$ 9071 [17]. The upstream and downstream remote-controlled switch time settings are 0.45h and 0.35h respectively in the remote-controlled switch allocation model with the consumed network resources considered. Comparison results are shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV  
COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE OPTIMAL ALLOCATIONS OF SS AND RCS

Strategies	Number of SS/RCS	Outage cost (\$)	Total cost (\$)	SAIDI
Allocation of SS	12	31244.8	49749.23	47.25
Allocation of RCS	19	31935.3	43655.00	49.38

From Table IV it is clear that the optimal number of SS is much smaller than that of RCS; however, the optimal smart substation allocation strategy leads to less outage cost than the remote-controlled switch allocation strategy due to the decrease of the outage duration. Because of the high cost of upgrading an existing conventional substation to a smart one, the total cost of the smart substation allocation strategy is higher than that of the remote-controlled switch allocation strategy. It is expected that the cost of a smart substation will be decreased with the continuous development of technology, and hence more wide applications of smart substations are anticipated.

### E. Discussions

Many factors, such as load demand increases, the penetration of DERs, implementations of demand response programs, new feeders and/or transformers, and various types of customers, have impacts on the optimal allocations of smart substations. The load demand employed in the study cases is the average value in each of the 15 years with an annual load growth rate 5%.

The penetration of DERs can contribute to reducing the outage duration or even avoiding the outage of customers by providing power supply following a fault. Incentives for consumers to participate in a demand response program may be provided as well [26]. Adding a new feeder or transformer to an existing distribution system is beneficial to reducing the outage duration. All these three factors can affect the outage duration, which is an important parameter in the proposed smart substation allocation model.

For given locations and sizes of DERs, the demand response program and adding-new-feeder planning, the outage duration of customers in a distribution system can be estimated by the proposed method in subsection C of Section II. The three factors, including the penetration of DERs, impacting of demand response programs, adding new feeders and/or

transformers, have impacts on the outage duration, and further the optimal allocation solution of smart substations. The presented optimization model for allocating smart substations has some degree of flexibility and can accommodate some practical factors specific to various utilities.

In the given study cases, customers are grouped into 3 types. Different types of customers have different service interruption costs. The priority degrees of various customers have impacts on the allocations of smart substations with regard to various outage costs of customers. The impact is clearly shown in Fig.5. Generally, customers with larger service interruption costs have stronger demands for smart substations. Substations 34, 43, 68 in feeder F-e supply power for most of the commercial customers, and will not be cut off even if there is a faulty component in other areas supplied by feeder F-e; the fault can be isolated by the smart substation 43, and substations 34, 43, 68 can be re-supplied quickly by feeder F-c. In the same way, with the help of smart substations 79 and 89, the interruption time of substations 40, 74, 79, 93 which supply power for most of the industrial customers is less than that in the case if substations 79 and 89 are both conventional ones.

#### IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

A smart substation allocation model is developed in this paper to investigate the impacts of employing smart substations on reducing the outage time of interrupted customers. The objective of the SSAM is set as minimizing the upgrade cost of substations and the expected interruption cost of customers while maintaining the SAIDI index less than its threshold. Numerical results demonstrate that upgrading conventional substations to smart substations can reduce the outage time and expected interruption cost of customers. The impacts of line failure rates and smart substation costs on solutions of the SSAM are also examined, which helps the DSO to predict other future possible scenarios. This work provides a flexible yet robust smart substation allocation method for distribution systems with different parameters.

The smart substation concept has becoming more and more widely accepted. It is of great importance to extend the proposed allocation approach while taking the other applications of smart substations into account such as minimizing power loss and voltage deviation so as to demonstrate the value of smart substations for improving the distribution network performance on a daily basis. This represents one of our future research efforts.

#### APPENDIX A

To elaborate the linearization method of the failure time presented in Eqns (13) and (14), a simplified distribution system topology shown in Fig. 7 is employed, with 5 lines and 5 substations. A fault occurred on line  $l_{2-3}$  between substations 2 and 3 is employed for illustration.

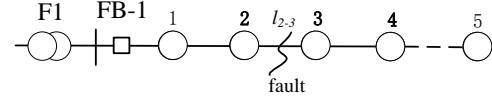


Fig. 7 A simplified distribution topology consisting of 5 lines and 5 substations.

Take the interruption time of substation 1 as an example to elaborate the linearization method of the failure time presented in Section II. Eqns (13) and (14) in the Section II can be rewritten as

$$t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}} \geq t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{smart}} \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}} \geq t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{cur}} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i \in \Omega_{F_1,l_{2-3},1}^{\text{SS}}} X_{f,i} \right] \quad (\text{A2})$$

If at least one of the two substations 1 and 2 is a smart one, Eqn (A2) can be relaxed because the value of  $t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{smart}}$  is larger

than that of  $t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{cur}} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i \in \Omega_{F_1,l_{2-3},1}^{\text{SS}}} X_{f,i} \right]$ . Then the constraint of the

failure time represented by Eqns (A1) and (A2) can be rewritten as Eqn (A3).

$$t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}} \geq t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{smart}} \quad (\text{A3})$$

If both substations 1 and 2 are not smart ones, Eqn (A2) can be rewritten as Eqn (A4).

$$t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}} \geq t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{cur}} \quad (\text{A4})$$

Because  $t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{smart}}$  is smaller than  $t_{1,F_1,l_{2-3}}^{\text{cur}}$ , Eqn (A1) is relaxed. The constraint of the failure time represented by Eqns (A1) and (A2) can be rewritten as Eqn (A4).

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